Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT)
Competitive Sub-grant Application Assurance Sheet

Project Title: Rising Above the Obstacles (RATO) Amount of Request: $ ***75,000.00***
District Name (Fiscal Agent for Consortiums): **Clark County School District**
Number: **161**
Please list the schools within the project, and indicated whether it is a targeted school or a partner school and certify the CIPA compliance of all participating schools:

Dist. # or 'P' for Private School	School Name	This school is a targeted school 'T' or a partner school 'P'.	This school is in compliance with the CIPA as outlined on page 3 of the guidance document.
161	**Lindy Ross Elementary**	**Targeted**	**YES**
161	**Clark County Jr/Sr High School**	**Targeted**	**YES**

I certify that we have contacted the charter and private schools in our area about participation in this grant.

Superintendent Name **Dave Kerns**	E-mail kernsd@mudlake.net	Telephone **208-374-5215**
Signature David L. Kerns		
District Technology Coordinator Name **Susie Shifflett**	E-mail shiffletts@mudlake.net	Telephone **208-374-5215**
Signature Susie Shifflett		
Project Director Name **Kathy Wagoner**	E-mail wagonerk@mudlake.net	Telephone **208-374-5215**
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Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT Sub-Grant Application)

Abstract

Clark County School District #161's Enhancing Education Through Technology Project, **Rising Above The Obstacles** (RATO), will improve academic achievement by increasing access to educational technology. With a dual focus on professional development and technology integration, RATO will serve as a catalyst for change in the Clark County School District's schools which are in need of improvement.

Project Need: In planning RATO, our district conducted a thorough needs assessment, gathering and analyzing data and results relative to student achievement, demographics statistics, staff development, existing instructional programs and materials, and school improvement plans. Through the efforts of committed administrators, staff, and parents, current technology efforts have done much to improve student success in the District. However, much more needs to be done throughout our District. Funding our school improvement efforts has been and continues to be difficult.

The District is increasingly challenged by its distinct demographics, limited resources, and rural isolation which compounds the need for communication between parents, teachers, and students The student demographic profile includes 44% Hispanic, 25% limited English proficient (LEP), 10% Migrant, 5% early English learners (ELL), and 70% economically disadvantaged. Our District is unique because the entire district qualifies in all three areas of eligibility for the EETT proposal.

Activity Summary: RATO targets at-risk learners in the District. The District prioritized its needs which are represented in the structure, rationale, and focus of this project. RATO will improve academic achievement and increased technology literacy by:

- Providing interactive classroom-based intervention and differentiation through PLATO learning software and ELLis language acquistion software.
- Providing intensive professional development on how to integrate technology effectively.
- Providing LUMEN software as a Comprehensive assessment module that gathers and analyzes both current and longitudinal data and has the ability to accommodate and report on District, State, and National testing data.
- Increasing communication and collaboration between parents, teachers and students using the LUMEN software via a parental port.

Clark County School District has struggled to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and has been identified for improvement for the fourth year. The compilation of factors facing our district all form the obstacles that the students and staff of Clark County School District need to rise above. This project will significantly enhance our district's ability to utilize technology effectively and efficiently which will benefit all involved for many years into the future.

Educational Need

As a rural district in Idaho, the Clark County School District serves a predominantly at-risk student population. Our low socio-economic and ongoing LEP populations have contributed to low test scores and growing achievement gaps. The District has been identified for improvement for the fourth year. Trends for reading proficiency are illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1: ISAT Reading Proficiency Level Trends (Clark County 161)

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Idaho Proficiency Goal	72%	78%	78%
Economically Disadvantaged Grades 3- 6	67.44%	60.98%	68.18%
Lindy Ross Elementary	74.58%	66.67%	82.93%
Jr./Sr. High School	78.18%	69.57%	69.23%
District	76%	68%	75.27%
State	82.95%	84.19%	84.57%

Math proficiency levels indicated a considerable decline in 2006-2007 school-year. The Jr./Sr. High School continues to struggle. Trends for math proficiency are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: ISAT Math Proficiency Level Trends (Clark County 161)

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Idaho Math Proficiency Goal	60%	70%	70%
Lindy Ross Elementary	79.66%	74.51%	75.61%
Jr./Sr. High School	85.45%	63.04%	67.31%
District	82.46%	69.07%	70.97%
State	82.82%	77.02%	80.85%

In addition to these statistics, Clark County School District has a high percentage of at risk students who perpetually fall well below the proficient levels in language usage. This has jeopardized several at risk students as they have faced the possibility of not graduating due to not passing this particular ISAT component requirement still into their senior year.

Demographics

By far, the most compelling challenges facing Clark County School District are related to the 70% poverty level. This rate of poverty is classified as severe. Poverty trends are illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3: Poverty Trends (Based on Free and Reduced Lunch Counts)

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
State of Idaho	43%	42%	31%	N/A
Lindy Ross Elementary	75%	91%	81%	71%
Jr./Sr. High School	54%%	66%	75%	69%
District	64%	75%	78%	70%

Because many of our ELL learners are newcomers, they have little or no previous experience with the English language. These students face the added challenge of learning a new language while learning reading, math, and science. In order to assist this group of students and help them achieve academically, we must first help them feel comfortable understanding and speaking English in an academic environment. Over the past 15 years, Clark County's demographics have dramatically changed due to the influx of students from Mexico. This has consequently presented substantial educational challenges. Our Hispanic population accounts for 44 percent of the total district enrollment of 203 students which includes 25% of all students being Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. Although the Migrant population has been decreasing, we still have 10% of students who are Migrant. The cultural and language obstacles these students face impact our efforts to ensure that all students meet proficient levels. Students in this and other sub groups are among our most diligent students. However, they all have obstacles to rise above in their educational quest.

Although Clark County School District faces many challenges and has experienced lower than acceptable levels of students' achievement, there are significant strengths that provide a high level of optimism for this district. For example, student attendance for the first quarter of 2008 is at 97.49%, up from yearly averages of 94-95%. Student behavioral issues are few and far between and 6-12 student participation in activities ranges from 75-80%. Parent involvement has somewhat increased, but the need for better communication is essential. There is still much to accomplish.

Project Detail

As discussed in our needs assessment, Clark County School District's academic performance rate is below the state average. RATO will use technology to provide the additional support needed to increase students' academic performance and help the students to rise above the obstacles.

Goal 1: Improve student academic achievement by analyzing both current and longitudinal data of students.				
Objectives	***Activities***	***Timeline***	***Partners***	***Measurable Indicators***
1) Collect and evaluate student test data. 2) Distribute student test data 3) Gather baseline data	1) Purchase and install LUMEN software 2) Schedule grant meeting 3) Administer pre-test	1) May – August 2009 2) August 2009 3) August – September 2009	1) Administrators, Tech. Coaches, Tech. Coordinator 2) Tech. Coaches, teachers 3) Teachers, Tech. coaches, Administrators	1) Program purchased and installed 2) 100 % teacher participation 3) 100% identified students tested

Goal 2: Improve the capacity of teachers to integrate technology effectively by providing intensive professional development.				
Objectives	***Activities***	***Timeline***	***Partners***	***Measurable Indicators***
1) Schedule training for PLATO, ELLis, LUMEN, and Smartboards.	1) Schedule school calendar to accommodate teacher training.	1) June 2009 – Aug. 2010	1) Administrators, Teachers, Tech coaches, Tech. Coordinator	1) 100 % of trainings are scheduled and completed with 100% teacher participation
2) Increase access to technology by teachers and students	2). Schedule classes and access to labs.	2) Aug. 2009 - ongoing	2) Administrators, Teachers, Tech coaches, Tech. Coordinator	2) Documented monthly meetings
3)Implementation of technology by teachers	3) Teacher observations	3) Aug. 2009 – May 2010	3) Administrators, Teachers, Tech coaches, Tech. Coordinator	3) 100% of teacher participation

Goal 3: Improve student achievement and technology literacy, through software that provides interactive classroom-based intervention and differentiation.				
Objectives	***Activities***	***Timeline***	***Partners***	***Measurable Indicators***
1) Increase research-based software programs.	1) Purchase and install software and equipment.	1) June 2009	1) Administrators, Technology Coordinator	1) 100 % of programs purchased and installed.
2) Increase technology literacy throughout the District	2) Monitor student use of programs.	2) Aug. 2009 – May 2010	2) Instructional technology coaches, Teachers	2) Generate instructional software reports quarterly
3) Increase access to technology by teachers and students	3) Schedule classes and access to labs.	3) Aug. 2009	3) Administrators, Teachers	3) Generate instructional software reports quarterly
4) Use students scores to individualize and differentiate instruction	4) Students participate in appropriate levels to provide individual instruction	4) Aug. 2009 – September 2010	4) Administrators, Technology Coordinator, Instructional technology coaches, Office staff	4) 3% increase in overall state test scores

Goal 4: Increase communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and students.				
Objectives	***Activities***	***Timeline***	***Partners***	***Measurable Indicators***
1) Establish an on-line parental port	1) Back-to-School informational meeting	1) Sept. 2009	1) Parents, teachers, administrators, students	1) 60 % of parents access parental port
2) Create more efficient delivery of information	2) Place student related information and links on school web site	2) June 2009 - ongoing	2) Parents, teachers, administrators, students	2) Survey parents regarding communication assessibility

Overall Program Evaluation: Measurable Indicators
1) A survey will be delivered annually assessing educator comfort level and use of technology integration. 2) State Assessments will be reviewed for increased student achievement in classrooms where teachers participated in technology professional development.

Sustainability

Clark County School District 161 is committed to sustaining this technology project. At the November 3, 2008 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board approved the pursuit of this project. All staff, including teachers, administrators, and support staff, are committed to the implementation of this project. The components and structure of this project afford the district the ability to begin and sustain it for many years. Hardware purchased for this project has a three year warranty and has an estimated life of 8-10 years. The software will be more than sufficient for 5-6 years which will allow for the district to plan and budget to upgrade. Furthermore, the professional development components of this project will be part of a sustained system that will be maintained as part of the school improvement plan and ongoing district strategic planning. Sustainability is built into the project.

Clark County School District employs a technology coordinator who implements and maintains the district's technology infrastructure as well as provides training and support to staff. The technology coordinator and administration pursues resources to improve and / or replace outdated equipment and programs. Even with the occasional state, federal, and / or private surplus technology equipment, Clark County continues to seek resources to improve and maintain present technology. For example, Clark County School District is continually active in seeking funds to augment its educational programs. Each year, application is made for E-Rate funding which greatly improves our resources in technology. E-Rate funding was recently (2007) used to update our entire internal network infrastructure. Other grants obtained have been used to purchase other improvements such as Rosetta Stone software (English for ELL and Spanish versions for regular ed.), computer task chairs, and Compass Learning Odyssey (K-8). Although we are committed to maintaining and upgrading our technology capabilities, it is difficult to do it all with limited resources. Grants and other resources are vital to the District to keep new and upgraded technologies available to the students and teachers.

This project provides essential technology upgrades while providing an opportunity to focus on our technology plan in conjunction with our school wide improvement efforts. The entire process will assist in the District's ability to help all students rise above the obstacles that they face in their education. The overall effectiveness and efficiency of our efforts will provide our staff and students with the essential mediums to develop technology competencies and skills and improve student achievement. It is truly in our best interest to maintain and sustain this project.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Professional development is a fundamental component of this project. In order for new software and hardware to be implemented effectively, teachers need to understand how to use them efficiently and effectively. Academic Technology Coaches will provide additional support and training after the initial professional development trainings.

Activity Professional Development	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Contractual Agreements	400 Materials/ Supplies	500 Capital Objects	TOTAL
Teacher Integration Plan Training – Provide stipends for teachers to attend training on non-contracted days.			$8,700.00			**$8,700.00**
PLATO Learning Training Cost – Contracted through PLATO throughout grant period			$5,100.00			**$5,100.00**
Ellis Training – Contracted for two day training through ELLis company			$2,200.00			**$2,200.00**
Lumen Software Training – Contracted for 3 day training and on-going tech support			$5,927.00			**$5,927.00**
Smartboard Training – Two day training on use and implementation			$3,500.00			**$3,500.00**
Required Evaluation Inservice – Held in Boise			$500.00			**$500.00**
Administration						
Administrative Fees	$500.00					**$500.00**
Instructional Technology Coaches – Two teachers, one at each building, to provide support and training for teachers	$6000.00					**$6000.00**

Projects						
Microsoft Office 2007 Suite – Each teacher will receive software and training by Tech. Coordinator					$1,500.00	**$1,500.00**
Lumen Software – Purchased to collect and gather testing data to distribute to teachers in order to focus educational goals and monitor student progress. Provide parental port to increase communication throughout the community.					$4,828.00	**$4,828.00**
ELLis Curriculum - Purchased to target LEP and ELL students to help build daily and academic vocabulary.					$6,500.00	**$6,500.00**
PLATO Learning Software – Purchased and integrated into the District and used to individualize and differentiate instruction based on data					$11,475.00	**$11,475.00**
Smartboard System – To purchase 5 new Smartboard SB680i2's with projectors and 5 other projectors to use with existing Smartboards.					$18,270.00	**$18,270.00**
TOTAL	**$6500.00**		**$25927.00**		**$42,573.00**	**$75,000.00**